

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD EGEN ETRD UN

SUBJECT: UNCTAD, PARIS CONFERENCE, AND 7TH SPECIAL SESSION AS
THEY RELATE TO COMMODITIES

1. UNCTAD BOARD CONTINUES TO TAKE PLACE IN ATMOSPHERE OF
PUZZLEMENT CONCERNING UNCTAD'S FUTURE ROLE IN FIELD OF
COMMODITY WORK AND ITS LIKELY RELATION TO COMMODITIES
COMMISSION OF FORTHCOMING PARIS CONFERENCE AND TO 7TH
SPECIAL SESSION. FOLLOWING COMMENTS SEVERAL DELEGATES
MAY BE OF INTEREST IN THROWING SOME LIGHT ON VARIOUS
ATTITUDES. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR PUTMAN (GROUP B COORDINATOR),
AFTER BREAKFAST MEETING TODAY WITH PEREZ GUERRERO (WHO
CHAired WEEKEND MEETING OF LDC SIX ON PARIS
MEETING) CONCLUDED LDCS WANT MAJOR ROLE FOR UNCTAD IN
FUTURE COMMODITY WORK. JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR WALKER, WHO
PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN LDC ACTIVITIES, RESPONDED THERE MUST
BE MISUNDERSTANDING THAT REAL COMMODITY WORK WILL
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HAVE TO BE IN PARIS. GROUP AS BROAD AS UNCTAD

COULD NOT POSSIBLY DO IT.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, FRENCH AMBASSADOR FERNAND-LAURENT EXPRESSED VIEW NO ONE HAD CLEAR IDEA ON HOW MATTER WOULD BE SORTED OUT. CONCERNING TIMING, HE STATED RAMADAN HAS BECOME FACTOR, AND THAT ARABS DO NOT WANT PARIS MEETING UNTIL SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THAT IS OVER. INDIAN AMBASSADOR CHADHA THOUGHT THAT COMMODITIES COMMISSION OF PARIS CONFERENCE WOULD BE INSTRUCTED COMPLETE WORK IN SIX MONTHS, I.E. WELL BEFORE UNCTAD IV NEXT MAY. HE ACCORDINGLY CONSIDERED THAT TWO OPERATIONS COULD BE MESHEDED, WITH PARIS COMMODITY COMMISSION REACHING SOME GENERAL CONCLUSIONS OR DECISIONS WHICH WOULD THEN BE REFERRED TO UNCTAD FOR TECHNICAL FOLLOW-UP.

3. AMBASSADOR LAI OF MALAYSIA, ALSO PROMINENT IN LDC CIRCLES GENEVA AND CHAIRMAN OF GATT CPS, EXPRESSES DOUBT THAT DCS WILL COME FORWARD WITH ANYTHING VERY SPECIFIC ON COMMODITIES AT 7TH SPECIAL SESSION, ON GROUNDS THAT ANY CONCESSIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE WITHHELD FOR PARIS WHERE THEY COULD BE MADE IN NEGOTIATING CONTEXT AND COULD BE BARGAINING COUNTERS LINKED TO ENERGY TALKS. THIS VIEW, IF WIDESPREAD, MAY SOMEWHAT REDUCE EXPECTATIONS CONCERNING 7TH SPECIAL SESSION ROLE RE COMMODITIES.
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